DeLoach
Mohr
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Casper
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Conrad
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MURKIN

EX-115 REC 17 44-38561-210

UPI-169
(KING)
4 APR 29 1968

WASHINGTON--THE FBI DECLARED TODAY THAT MARTIN ~~LUTHER~~ KING WAS THE VICTIM OF A CONSPIRACY TO KILL HIM. IT NAMED 36-YEAR-OLD ERIC STARVO GALT AS A PARTNER IN THAT CONSPIRACY AND ISSUED A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY ATTY. GEN. RAMSEY CLARK WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT OFFICIALS BELIEVED THAT THE SLAYING OF KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., ON APRIL 4 WAS THE RESULT OF A CONSPIRACY AND NOT THE WORK OF ONE MAN ACTING ALONE. CLARK HAD FIRST RULED OUT CONSPIRACY.

THE FBI SAID THE CONSPIRACY TO KILL KING INVOLVED AT LEAST ONE OTHER MAN, "AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE (GALT) ALLEGED TO BE HIS BROTHER."

IT SAID THE PLOT ORIGINATED ON MARCH 29--SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE SLAYING--AND THAT GALT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS ON THE DAY OF THE SLAYING AND THE DAY PRECEDING.

THE FBI PORTRAYED GALT AS A POORLY EDUCATED LONER WITH A TASTE FOR COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC, VODKA, BEER AND DANCING. IT SAID HE SPOKE WITH DICTION REFLECTING A "RURAL" BACKGROUND AND THAT HE CLAIMED TO HAVE WORKED AS A COOK ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER VESSELS AND AS A MERCHANT SEAMAN. HE HAD TAKEN LESSONS IN DANCING AND WAS A GRADUATE OF A BARTENDING SCHOOL.

We must adhere to "no comment". The avid press will be concocting all kinds of wild stories & if we start answering them we are sunk. The press release is all we have to say at this time.

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

79 APR 30 1968

THE FBI STATEMENT SAID GALT PURCHASED A 1966 WHITE MUSTANG IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA., ON AUG. 30, 1967, AND DROVE 19,000 MILES BETWEEN THEN AND WHEN IT WAS FOUND ABANDONED IN ATLANTA, GA. ON APRIL 11.

WITHOUT EXPLAINING HOW IT KNEW, THE FBI SAID GALT DROVE THE CAR TO LOS ANGELES, NEW ORLEANS, BIRMINGHAM AND MEXICO BEFORE GOING TO MEMPHIS AND, AFTER THE KILLING, TO ATLANTA.

THE FBI MADE PUBLIC TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF A MAN IT IDENTIFIED AS GALT AND SAID HE USED THE ALIASES "HARVEY LOWMYER" AND "JOHN WILLARD." IN ONE PHOTOGRAPH HIS EYES WERE CLOSED; IN THE OTHER, A PRINT OF THE FIRST, AN FBI ARTIST HAD SKETCHED IN OPENED EYES.

BUT THE FBI REFUSED TO SAY WHERE OR HOW IT GOT THE PICTURE OR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT GALT'S ACTIVITIES, SOME OF IT DATING BACK FOUR YEARS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS HANDED TO REPORTERS AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND NO QUESTIONS WERE PERMITTED.

GALT WAS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MAN, BETWEEN 5 FEET 8 INCHES AND 5 FEET 11 INCHES IN HEIGHT, WEIGHING BETWEEN 160 AND 170 POUNDS, WITH A MEDIUM BUILD. HE WAS SAID TO BE A NEAT DRESSER.

IN LEGAL LANGUAGE, THE FBI COMPLAINT FILED IN BIRMINGHAM CHARGED THAT GALT AND THE OTHER MAN "ENTERED INTO A CONSPIRACY WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL ON OR ABOUT APRIL 5, 1968, TO INJURE, OPPRESS, THREATEN OR INTIMIDATE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR."

"IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CONSPIRACY," THE FBI CHARGED, GALT PURCHASED A RIFLE IN BIRMINGHAM ON OR ABOUT MARCH 30.

4/17--TS733PES